



THE FINAL NIGHT™



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SUPERMAN® ACTION COMICS®



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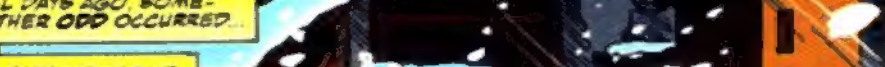


SEVERAL DAYS AGO, SOMETHING RATHER ODD OCCURRED...

...THE SUN WENT OUT.

SINCE THEN, FEAR HAS BLANKETED THE EARTH...

...FILLING THE SOULS OF HUMAN ANIMALS WHO WOULD USE AND EMBRACE IT.

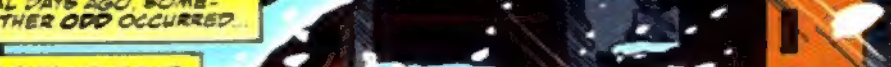


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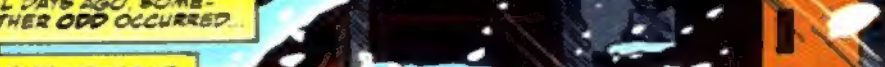


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...THE SUN WENT OUT.

SINCE THEN, FEAR HAS BLANKETED THE EARTH...

...FILLING THE SOULS OF HUMAN ANIMALS WHO WOULD USE AND EMBRACE IT.

C'MON, GUYS, LET'S RIDE!

PLEASE! FOOD SHIPMENTS HAVE STOPPED!

THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO KEEP US ALIVE!

KWAII, DON'T--!

C'MON, GUYS, LET'S RIDE!

PLEASE! FOOD SHIPMENTS HAVE STOPPED!

THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO KEEP US ALIVE!

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PLEASE! FOOD SHIPMENTS HAVE STOPPED!

THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO KEEP US ALIVE!

KWAII, DON'T--!

YET THERE ARE SOME THINGS SO BASIC, SO ELEMENTAL, THAT EVEN THE POWER OF PLANETARY CHAOS CANNOT ALTER THEM.

A comic book panel depicting a snowy street scene. Two soldiers in full riot gear, including helmets and gas masks, are positioned on the right. They are facing a man and a woman who are standing in the snow. The man is wearing a dark jacket and the woman is wearing a red jacket. The soldier on the left is speaking, and the soldier on the right is responding. The background shows a building with a sign that reads 'BANK OF AMERICA'. The scene is filled with snow, suggesting a winter or high-altitude environment.

A comic book panel depicting a scene in a snowy, urban environment. Two soldiers in full riot gear, including helmets and gas masks, are positioned in the foreground. The soldier on the left is speaking, with a speech bubble that reads: "JUST BE GLAD WE LEFT YA BREATHIN', PAL!". The soldier on the right is also speaking, with a speech bubble that reads: "AN' PRAY WE DON'T COME BACK!". In the background, a man and a woman are standing near a red fire hydrant. The man is wearing a dark jacket, and the woman is wearing a red jacket. They appear to be looking at the soldiers. The background shows a building with a sign that partially reads "BARBERS". The scene is filled with snow, suggesting a winter or high-altitude setting.

SUCH THINGS AS TRUTH...

...AND JUSTICE...

...AND--

SUCH THINGS AS TRUTH...

...AND JUSTICE...

...AND--

SUCH THINGS AS TRUTH...

...AND JUSTICE...

...AND--

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SUPERMAN

COLD COMFORT!

THWOK!

SUPERMAN
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL
& JOE SHUSTER

DAVID MICHELINIE DENIS RODIER BILL OAKLEY GLENN WHITMORE
writer inker letterer colorist
DIGITAL CHAMELEON MIKE MCAVERNIE and JOE CAVALIERI
separators associate editor editor
extend a WARM welcome to new penciler, TOM DRUMMETT!

OH, MAN! THE
WHOLE WORLD'S
FALLIN' APART!

DON'T YOU HAVE
SOMETHIN' BETTER
TO DO?

NEVER.

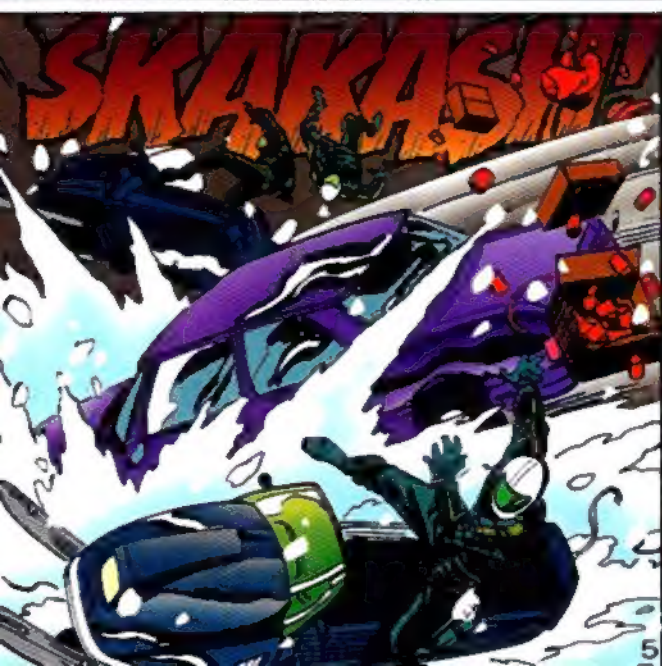
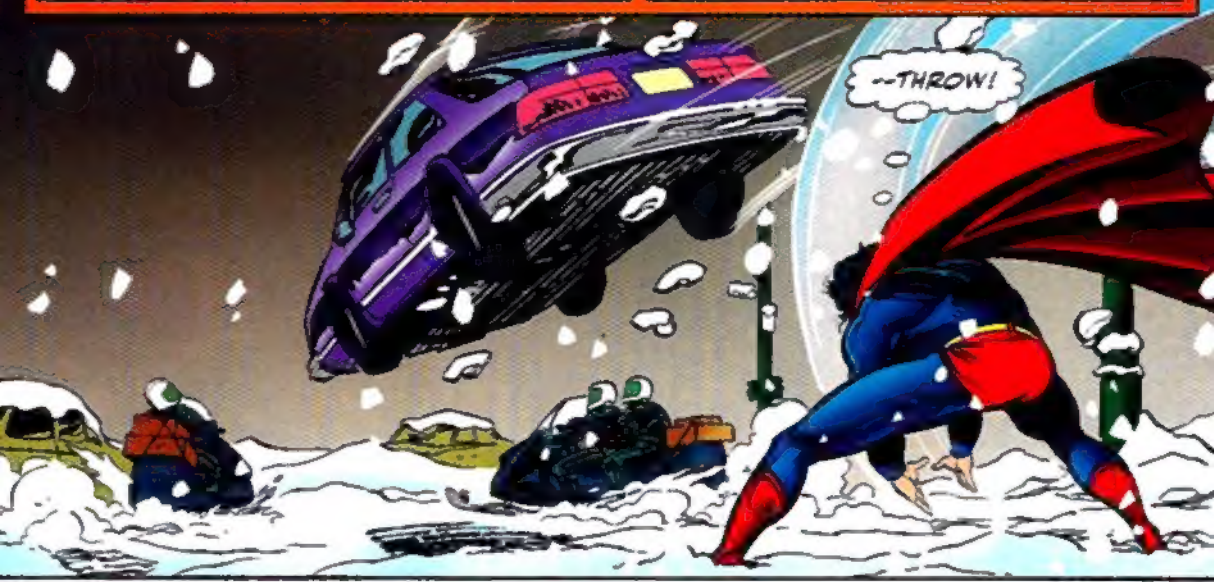
**BLAM!
BLAM!**

SPWEE

YING

GUIP! I-I
KNOW THIS IS
SUICIDE, BUT
I GOTTA GET
OUTTA HERE!

SPWEE





I'M NOT A CRIMINAL, I'M
A BUSINESSMAN.

BUT WITH MASS
TRANSIT SHUT
DOWN, I CAN'T
GET HOME TO
PARK RIDGE!

WHAT I NEED
NOW IS SOME
PLACE WARM
TO HOLE UP.
YEAH!

THIS FOOD
SHOULD
LAST
SEVERAL
DAYS.

BY THEN, THE
GOVERNMENT
WILL FIND SOME
WAY OUT OF THIS
MESS!



WHAT A
MESS!

MY BODY IS
ESSENTIALLY A
LIVING SOLAR
BATTERY.

I GET MY
POWERS FROM THE
SUN.

BUT WITHOUT
SUNLIGHT TO RENEW MY
ENERGY, THOSE POWERS
HAVE BEEN DIMINISHING
EVER SINCE I GOT BACK
FROM PARIS.

* SEE THE FINAL NIGHT #2.

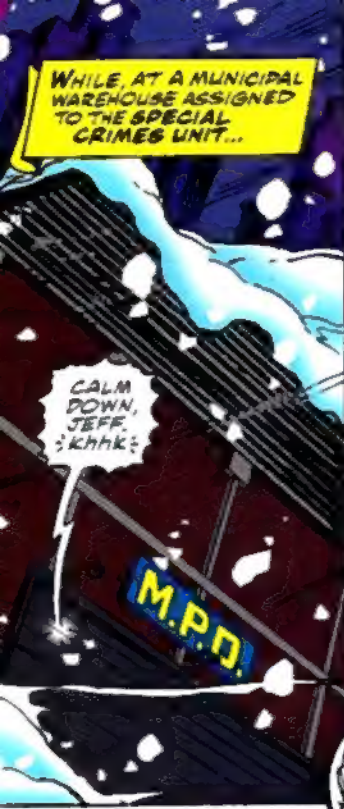


CAN'T
EVEN FLY
NOW. I'M
FORCED TO
LEAP AS
FAR AS I
CAN.



WHAT HAPPENS IF
I GROW TOO WEAK?
IF I CAN'T PROTECT
METROPOLIS--

--NOW, WHEN THE
CITY NEEDS ME
MORE THAN EVER?



WHILE, AT A MUNICIPAL WAREHOUSE ASSIGNED TO THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT...

CALM DOWN, JEFF. KHHK

M.P.D.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, MIGUEL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GUARD THESE SIMM-BOTS ALL BY YOURSELF!

I KNOW THE CURRENT CRISIS HAS OUR GUYS SPREAD THIN, BUT COULDN'T YOU SPARE ONE TROOPER FOR BACKUP?



I MEAN, THIS PLACE IS SO SPOOKY, I'M STARTIN' TO HEAR SHADOWS MOVE!

SKIN'S CRAWLIN' LIKE SOMETHIN'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN!





SENTRY
DOWN!

AREA
SECURE!

THEN LET'S
GET WHAT WE
CAME FOR!



FIRE UP
THOSE
SIMM-BOTS
AND LET'S
MOVE!

D... D-DON'T--!



EASY, SON.
OUR GROUP'S
CALLED
"SURVIVE
ALIVE!", AND
THAT'S ALL
WE INTEND
TO DO.

WE WON'T
HURT
ANYONE
UNLESS WE
HAVE TO.



BUT THE
GUN'S
FAILURE IS
JUST THE
KIND OF
CATASTROPHE
WE'VE BEEN
PREPARING
FOR!

WE NEED
THOSE SIMM-BOTS
TO PROTECT OUR
HIDDEN BUNKERS
ACROSS THE
RIVER.

AND SINCE
THE GOVERNMENT
TOOK FROM THE PEOPLE
AT WAGO AND RUBY
RIDGE, WE FIGURE IT'S
TIME FOR US TO DO
SOME TAKING!

WHILE IN THE DIM OFFICES
OF THE DAILY PLANET...

PERRY WHITE'S
SHOES ARE TOUGH
TO FILL ON THE BEST
DAYS.

BUT I
PROMISED I'D
KEEP THE PLANET
GOING IN HIS
ABSENCE--

--AND I WON'T
LET A LITTLE
THING LIKE THE END
OF THE WORLD
STOP ME!

CLARK?

YEAH,
RON?
WHAT IS
IT?

JUST THOUGHT
YOU'D WANT TO KNOW
WE'VE PUT THE LATEST
EDITION TO BED--

--AND FERRO'S
GETTING READY TO
DELIVER IT.*

GOOD
WORK, RON.
THANKS.

*FERRO WAS
RECRUITED IN
ADVENTURES #540.

UMMM, I
WAS JUST
WONDERING,
CLARK...

...I GOT A CALL
FROM LUCY JUST
BEFORE THE BATTERY
ON MY CELL PHONE DIED.
SHE'S PRETTY SCARED,
AND I WAS THINKING--

GO AHEAD,
RON. MAKE
SURE SHE'S
OKAY.



WELL,
I COULD
STAY, IF...

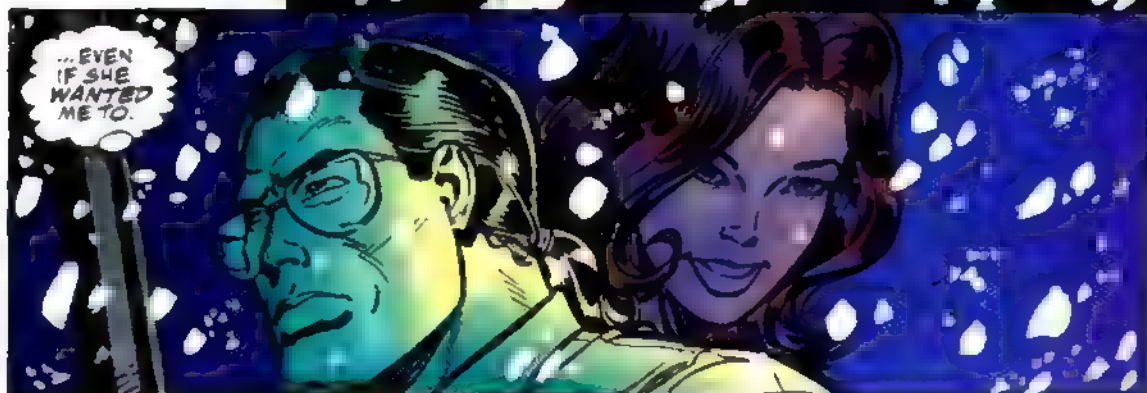
THE NEXT
EDITION WON'T
BE MORE THAN
A ONE-SHEET,
AND WE CAN
HANDLE THAT

GO.



I KNOW HOW
RON FEELS.
RIGHT NOW,
THERE'S NOTHING
I WANT MORE
THAN TO BE WITH
LOIS.

BUT WITH MY
DIMINISHED POWERS,
I COULDN'T FLY
ACROSS THE ATLANTIC
TO FIND HER EVEN



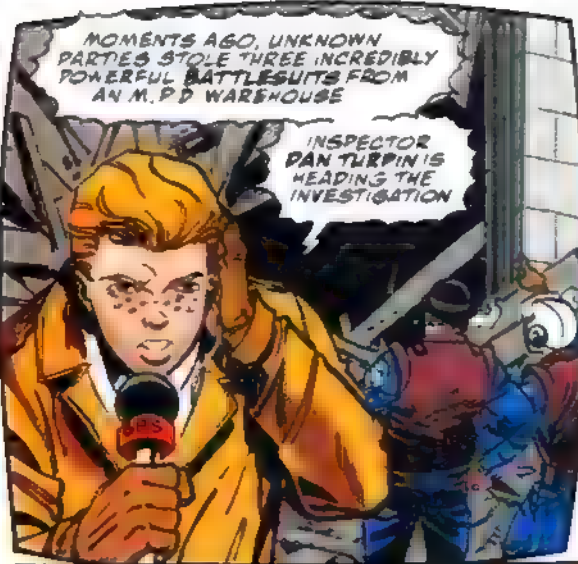
...EVEN
IF SHE
WANTED
ME TO.



MR. KENT?
I THINK
YOU'LL WANT
TO SEE THIS!

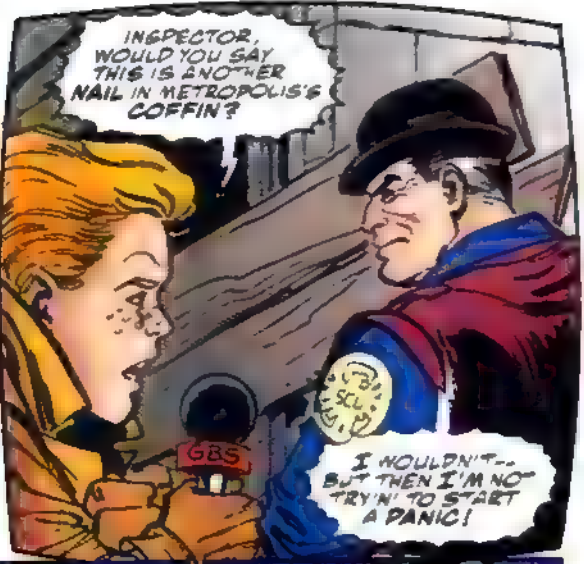


THIS IS
JIMMY OLSEN,
WGSS NEWS ON THE
SCENE OF YET
ANOTHER TRAGEDY
IN THE MAKING!



MOMENTS AGO, UNKNOWN PARTIES STOLE THREE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL BATTLESUITS FROM AN M.P.D WAREHOUSE

INSPECTOR PAN TURPIN IS HEADING THE INVESTIGATION



INSPECTOR, WOULD YOU SAY THIS IS ANOTHER NAIL IN METROPOLIS'S COFFIN?

I WOULDN'T... BUT THEN I'M NOT TRYING TO START A PANIC!



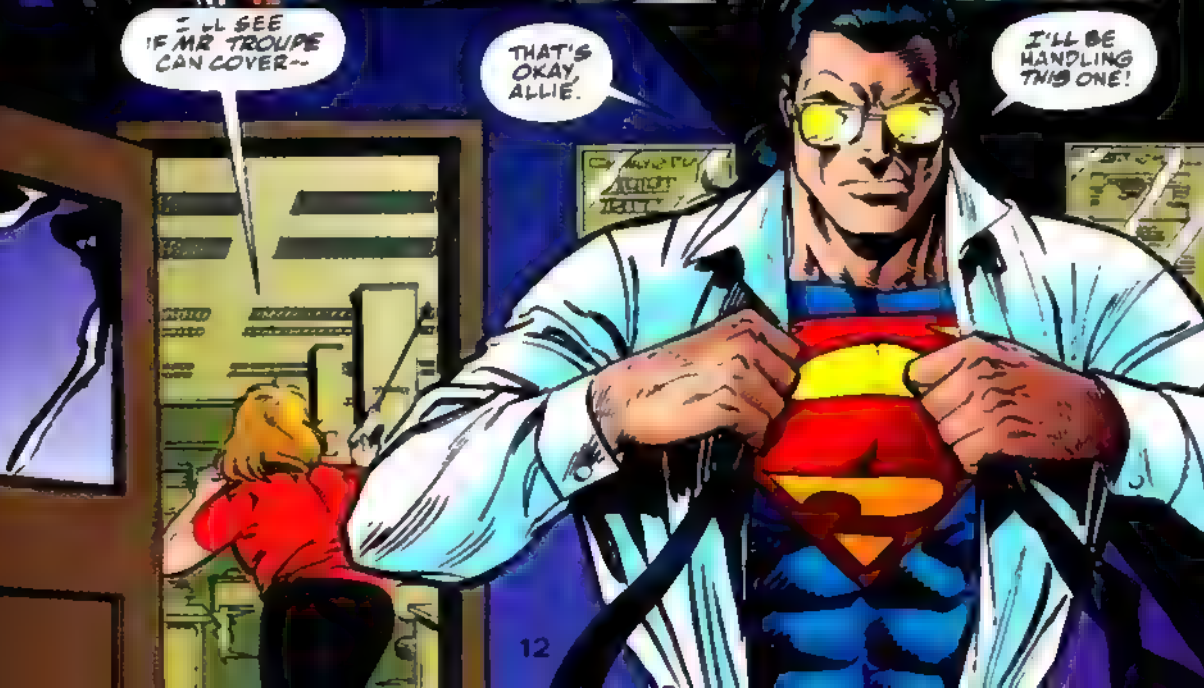
I WILL SAY THAT IF THINGS KEEP GETTIN' WORSE, THOSE SIMM-BOTS COULD BECOME VITAL TO THIS CITY'S SAFETY!

AN' WITH OUR FORCES RUN RAGGED ALREADY, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN MOUNT A PROPER SEARCH!



LOOKS LIKE THIS TIME WE LOSE.

OH, DEAR!



I'LL SEE IF MR TROUPE CAN COVER--

THAT'S OKAY, ALLIE.

I'LL BE HANDLING THIS ONE!

CENTENNIAL PARK.

S-SAW A NEWS REPORT ONCE...B-BOUT HOW HOMELESS PEOPLE STAY WARM...B-BY LIVIN' IN DRAINAGE TUNNELS.

C-COULD BE MY TICKET...T-TO GETTIN' THROUGH THIS BAD SPELL.

TH-THERE'S ONE NOW A-AND THERE'S LIGHT INSIDE

M-MUST ALREADY BE SET UP, A-AS SHELTER.

S-STILL GOT A COUPLE HUNDRED BUCKS. I-I M SURE THEY LL BE HAPPY T-TO RENT ME SOME SPACE.. A-AND MAYBE A BLANK--

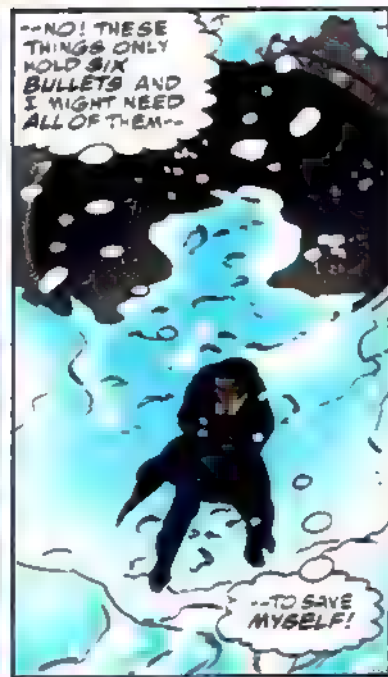
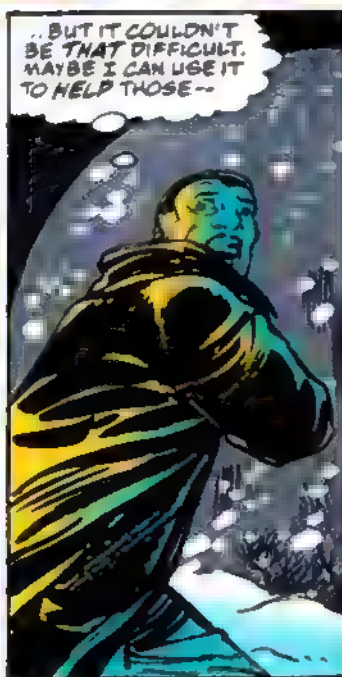
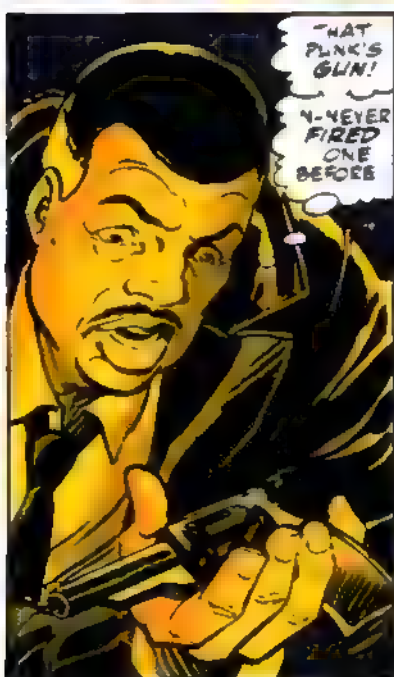
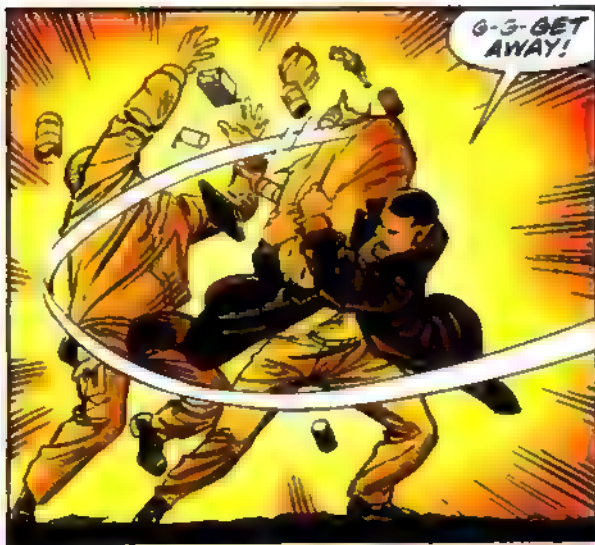
--ET?

OH LORD!

PRETTY TOASTY IN HERE, HUH, RICKY?

YEAH, AN' I CAN THINK O' SOME FUN WAYS TA GET EVEN WARMER!

G-GOTTA SLIP AWAY, BEFORE ANYONE SEES ME--!



RIVER'S
JUST A FEW
BLOCKS
AWAY.

WE'LL
BE HOME
BEFORE
SUPPER!

BUT,
AARON--

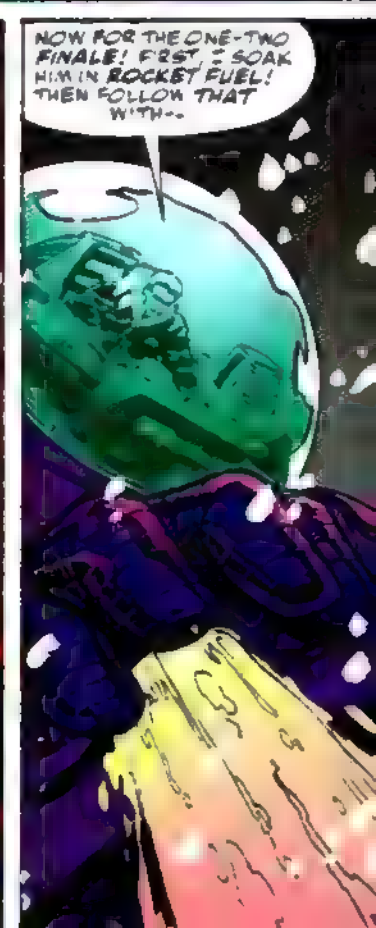
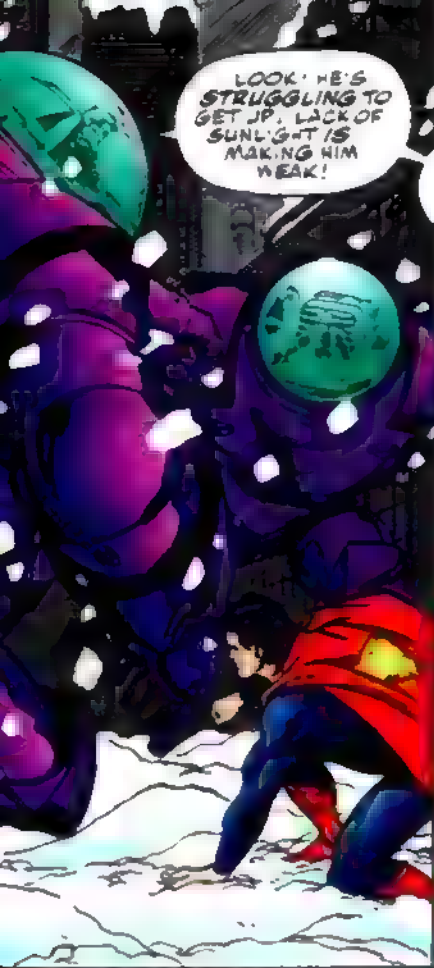
--WHAT IF
SUPERMAN
SHOWS?

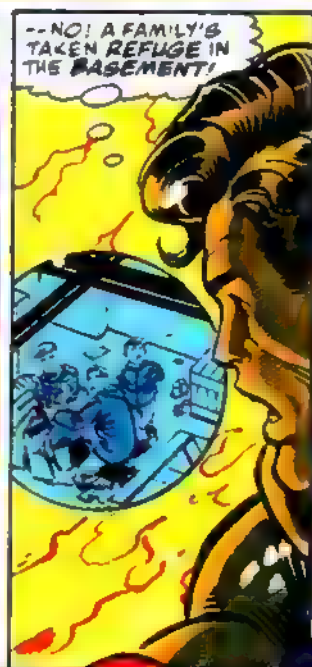
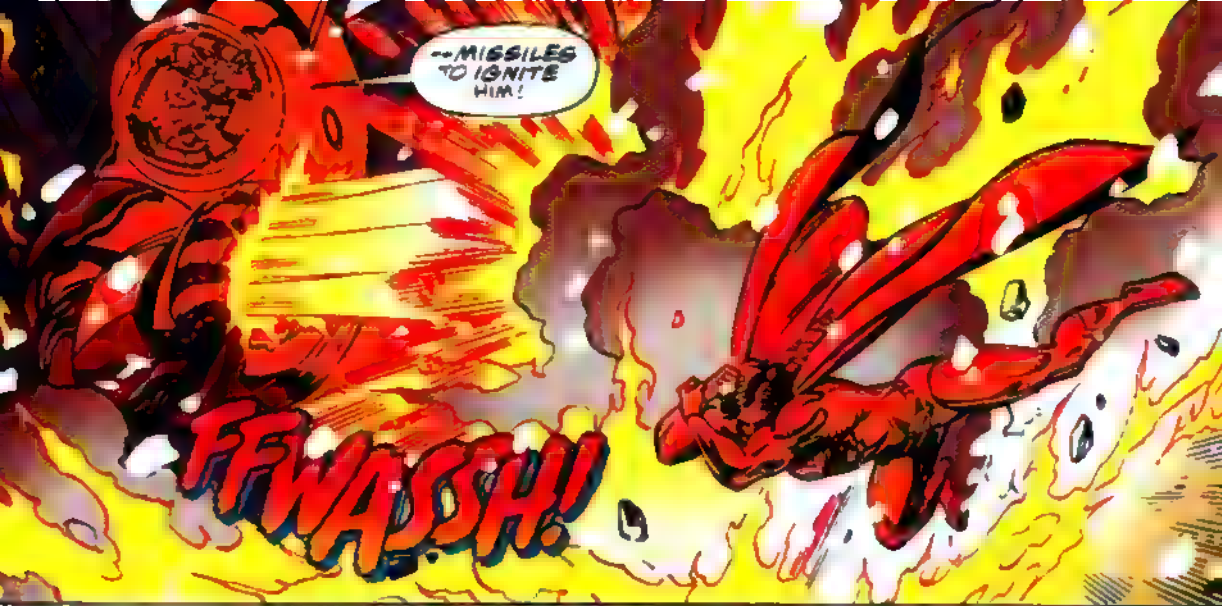
LIKE I SAID
AT THE BRIEFING,
SAM: ACCORDING
TO SPECULATION WE
SKIMMED OFF THE
INTERNET, THAT
SHOULDN'T BE A--

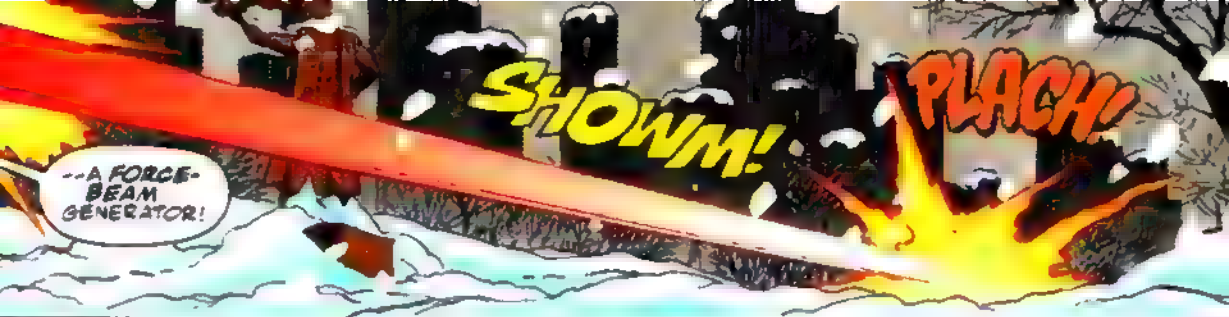
--PROBLEM?

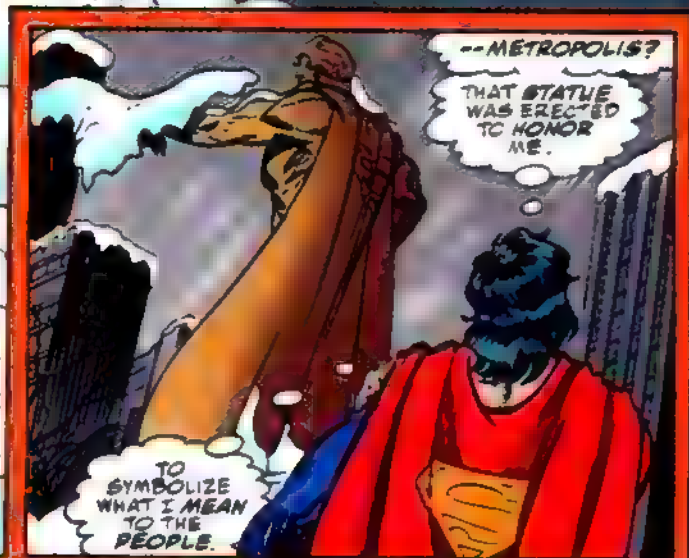
KTANG!

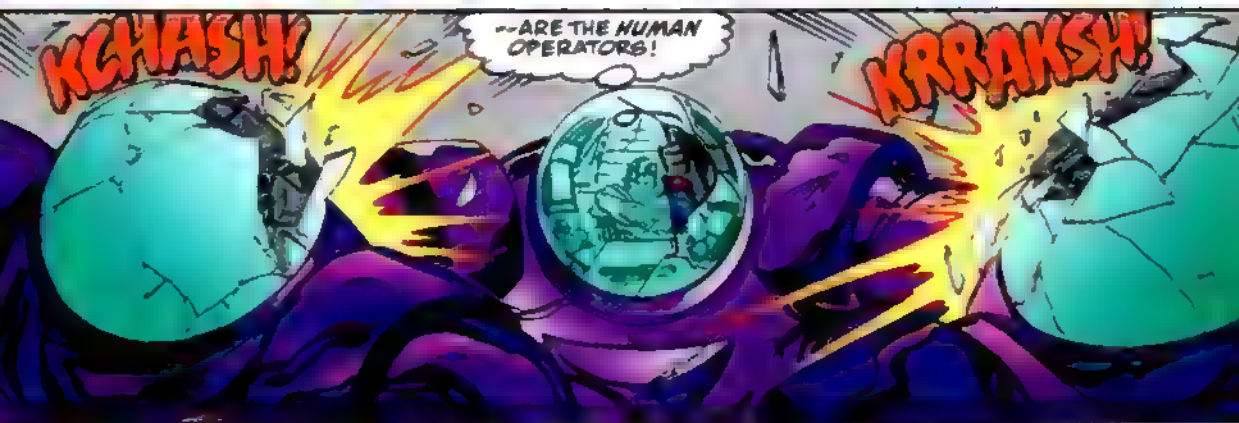
HAVE TO DISABLE
THESE MACHINES WITH-
OUT DESTROYING
THEM!













MIDNIGHT, DARK
AS NOON...

GLAD TO HEAR
YOU'RE ALL FINE,
PERRY. GIVE ALICE
AND KEITH MY
BEST.

OKAY,
TALK TO YOU
LATER.

G'NIGHT.

ANOTHER DAY
DONE, AND WE
ALL MADE IT
THROUGH INTACT.
BUT WHAT
ABOUT...

...TOMORROW?

ASSUMING, OF
COURSE, THERE IS
A TOMORROW.



~sigh~

GUESS I'M
TIRED. I SHOULD
KNOW BY NOW:
NO MATTER HOW
GRIM THINGS
GET~

--THERE
WILL BE A
TOMORROW.
AS LONG
AS I--

--AS LONG
AS WE HAVE
ANYTHING TO
SAY ABOUT
IT!



ACTION COMICS #723

Hi, all. Let's take a look at your comments regarding the second installment of our Guest Creative Team Month, shall we...?

Dear Superman Editors:

I really enjoyed ACTION COMICS #723. "Identity Crisis" is getting better and better. When I saw Dave Johnson's cover, I knew this issue would be great. They say you can't judge a book by its cover, but you sure can with Superman books.

About the issue—Brainiac isn't doing such a good job being in Supes's body (voice, speech, actions, definitely not looks). And if Aminah sings like that, she probably sounds like Alfalfa. But that's how some people do it, I guess.

Tom Peyer and Mark Waid wrote a good story, and the artwork was exceptional, though did Chas Cassidy grow his hair long because of Superman? Maybe he's Jimmy in disguise! (Ha-Ha!)

VITO BUSCEMI
PHILLIPSBURG, NJ

Admittedly, Vito, Chas **does** bear a striking resemblance to a younger Jimmy Olsen. Fortunately, that long hair helped differentiate him! And yes, Dave Johnson's cover was a great start to a terrific issue. If you like his Superman, then you may be interested in seeing his stuff in a Superman ELSEWORLDS project slated for late '97. Details to follow!

As for that li'l rascal Aminah's crooning, it could've been worse—it could have been bigger rascal Mike Carlin, who walks around the DCU offices singing "English Muffin Pizzas" day in, day out. It's killing us slowly, Vito. Please—help us.



To the Super-Team:

The first two pages of "Keys" were slow for this issue, but the rest of ACTION #723 was fantastic! Looking at Chas on pages 3

through 6 was like looking at a younger Jimmy Olsen with long hair. Superman wouldn't have had it so bad if the body he's trapped in didn't have those episodes when under stress. And how could Chas (Superman) have killed that orderly James? He isn't one anymore! (Stupid guard!)

"Identity Crisis" has been a rare, good story that needed to be written. When you have another good Superman epic, I'll write again. See you when that happens.

BRIAN HALL
BALDWIN CITY, KS

Does that mean we can expect another letter from you, say, next week, Brian...?

By the way, in addition to not being the only one who thought Chas looked like Jimmy, you were also not the only one to comment on that disorderly orderly's demise...



Dear Re:Action:

This month's installment of ACTION COMICS (issue #723) explained a little more about Brainiac. "Identity Crisis," Part Two was different, and I like different! I was just happy the brain in Chas's body didn't get fried by the shock treatments; after all, it's Superman's brain. Talk about a story hitting me like a jet. WHOOOOSH!

Brainiac looks to be up to no good. That incident with the missile was a close call. I mean, I don't think calling 911 would have helped much had the warhead exploded.

Things certainly couldn't get much worse for Chas. If Chas/Superman could fly, James wouldn't have fallen. It was an accident, and hopefully, when the report comes in, alcohol will be blamed. Besides, James shouldn't have been on Lovelace property anymore, anyway. He and Eric were fired by Dr. Guinness.

Thanks for the effort in this month's issue; it was a true team achievement.

ALLEN KLINGELHOETS
BARRON, WI



Dear Editors:

I've been waiting quite a while to see a story where Superman was reduced to boyhood, but "Identity Crisis" wasn't what I had in mind. Tom Peyer and Mark Waid are doing a great job in delivering enough twists and turns to keep things interesting, though. I mean, who wasn't expecting Superman to try escaping from Lovelace while in Chas's body...but who thought someone would lose his life in the process? That doesn't bode well, not well at all. And Brainiac has a master plan, other than stealing Superman's form? He's certainly found some rather odd uses for his newfound abilities. Just trying to get the hang of super-heroing? If only that were the case.

Unfortunately, in this case, as the plot thickens, the pace also quickens. As with Part One, certain scenes were not given enough attention, such as the one where Lois was being manhandled in the subway tunnel, not to mention Clark's sudden change of heart about not filling her in about what's been happening to him. I'm sure Peyer and Waid consider their

readers intelligent enough to latch onto any "unsaid" bits of information and piece them together, but the story comes off as only being half told, and this super-fan expects a little more from these pages.

CHRIS HINES
TURO, NS

We hope we've met your expectations with the latter half of the story, Chris, and with what we have planned in the upcoming months ahead. Thanks for writin'!



Dear Re:Action:

I really enjoyed the artwork of Curt Swan and Dick Giordano again in ACTION #723. As with Gil Kane's work in the Superman books a few months ago, I'm glad to see DC continually privilege us readers with their work. These veterans are truly masters of their craft.

What with the predicament of Chas (or at least his body) in the current "Identity Crisis" storyline, I'm curious as to what's going on with another teenager—Keith, the Whites' adopted son. He's had a few recurring roles in some good storylines in the past, but it seems like he's been out of these pages for more than a while. Are there any plans to see him again in the near future?

JIM KELLY
VALLEY STREAM, NY

Keith's appeared in MAN OF STEEL over the past several months now, Jim, as we've taken a closer look at how Perry and his family are dealing with his cancer. In fact, you'll even see him again next week, in MAN OF STEEL #62! Now, that's service!



Gentlemen:

At times, I wonder why I keep struggling through the soapy mess the Superman titles have become. After two issues of "Identity Crisis," I now know. I'm looking for a story—an honest-to-goodness story, with a plot, suspense, humor and action. Well, thanks, guys—this is a story!

GARY D. ROBINSON
KENT, OH

Well, thanks, Gary, though we Super-types strongly feel you get exactly the elements you're looking for in every Superman title, every month. We even have singing, to boot!



Hey, Super-People:

As Superman, Brainiac seems more evil than ever before. Since everybody

trusts Superman, Brainiac can do whatever he wants. People wouldn't see him as a threat until it was too late.

The best part of this issue was Brainiac staring down Lois. That was a little freaky. The only thing I don't understand was why didn't Brainiac kill Lois while he had the chance?

Chas and Aminah are great characters; too bad they'll disappear after this storyline. Seeing Superman as a teenager is both funny and interesting. Even in a mental ward, there are villains, and the best action of this issue was watching Chas escape those bullying aides.

So far, this storyline has been better than "The Trial of Superman." I can't wait for the conclusion, because I would like to see how you're going to turn all this into a happy ending. Thanks for your time.

DOUD OHMER
COVINGTON, KY

Brainiac could have finished off Lois, Doud, but he didn't expect Big Blue's strict moral code and feelings for Lois to stop him. It was Superman's subconscious nature which stopped Brainiac from killing her.

As for never seeing Chas and Aminah again...Well, there are no plans for them to return, but we never write anyone completely off in the Superman universe. If enough people want 'em back, we'll see what we can do.



Dear Super-Staff:

While reading ACTION COMICS #723, I noticed something I thought was interesting: on page 23, the price of the Daily Planet was 50 cents. It was also 50 cents in the all-famous "Death of Superman" issue, but in THE RETURN OF SUPERMAN trade paperback, the edition with Ron Frenz's story about the Cyborg saving the President's life cost only 40 cents. Also in that collection, we see Clark Kent's exclusive on Superman in a Daily Planet that cost only 30 cents. How much does the Daily Planet cost?

Oh well...if the prices of things in Metropolis are half as weird as everyday life, tomorrow's Planet will cost 20 cents! Keep up the good work.

JEREMY DAVIS
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA

Actually, it's all quite easy to explain, Jeremy—the fluctuations in price come from the inclusion/exclusion of special supplements in the paper, which also affect the amount of ads in each edition. The paper covering Supes' death cost more because of all the special supplements featured in that paper.

And if you don't buy that excuse, just take this month's Baldy. It's free, and we'll forget this discussion ever came up, 'kay?

—Mike McAvennie
Baldy-briber.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

NEXT WEEK: In MAN OF STEEL #62, Metropolis nears its FINAL NIGHT, while an almost-powerless Superman tries desperately to keep the city running. We'll also take a look at another man who tried to keep his planet alive, only to fail. It's heroes past and present in seven days by Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: OK, stop the presses—SUPERMAN #118 is the first installment of a story so mind-numbing, so earth-shattering, that you'd be crazy not to check it out. We can't give you all the details just yet, but believe Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein when they tell you that you won't be disappointed!

IN THREE WEEKS: Again, we're still sworn to secrecy, but this is BIG. We mean HUMONGOUS. GIGANTIC. It's a special, and what a special it is! Just look for it on the stands in twenty-one days. It won't be hard to miss.

IN FOUR WEEKS: If you weren't disappointed a week ago, then you'll be even more excited by the events in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #541. Karl Kesel, Stuart Immonen and Jose Marzan, Jr. beg you—no, implore you—to come by in twenty-eight days and see what's happening!

NEXT ISSUE: In ACTION #728, it's the aftermath of last week's BIG, HUMONGOUS, GIGANTIC thing, by David Michelinie, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier. If you think we topped ourselves last week, hey, folks, we're just gettin' started!

HAVE A COMPUTER? GOT A MODEM?

FREE
DC COMICS ONLINE
STARTER KIT

1-800-203-2600

The weather on this month's cover is frightful, but the talents of Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier and Patrick Martin are delightful. As panic from THE FINAL NIGHT begins to grow, let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

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